(N065) CONFIDENTIAL OADR EXCISE

Air Force PRIORITY

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

767.00/1-2253

FROM : AMLEGATION, BERN

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. January 22, 1953

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SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: Developments in Albania

Central Files

767.00/1-2253

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It may be that this report will add little to the information already available to the Department, but it is being forwarded for whatever value it may have:

Albanian refugees coming into Yugoslavia and Greece speak of discontent, disorganization, and reprisals. The regime does not appear to be very stable. Bands of partisans are said to have succeeded some months ago in cutting for several days important roads in the region of Peshkopi, notably that which links Kukes to Skutari.

But the Soviets are not about to abandon Albania. Radio Tirana announces periodically the arrival of Russian material for factories being constructed or developed in Albania. According to a Tass despatch of December 22nd, the USSR has decided to make a big modern port at Durazzo. The Russification of the country continues with the same brutality as in the other satellite countries.

The Soviets have constructed a submarine base on the island of Sasson. In addition, the presence in Albania of Soviet tanks T-34 this past summer has been reported. It does not seem, however, that the Soviet military effort in Albania is considerable. The Allies have informed Greek military authorities that it would not have to concern itself with Albania in case of war. According to an expert, this means that the Allies intend to neutralize Albania at the start of operations.

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Robert M. Winfree
Second Secretary of Legation

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